

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 NRC-05 /125 W

----- 123913

R 301718Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9939

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13926

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, KU

SUBJECT: EMIR OF KUWAIT'S VISIT TO FRANCE

SUMMARY: THE FRENCH PROVIDED KUWAIT'S EMIR WITH THE FULL STATE VISIT TREATMENT AT WHICH THEY EXCEL DURING HIS MAY 26-28 OFFICIAL VISIT HERE. THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS DO NOT APPEAR VERY SUBSTANTIAL BASED ON THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE AND OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS. AS PART OF AN OVER-ALL FRENCH EFFORT FOR MARKETS, OIL SUPPLIES AND INFLUENCE IN THE GULF STATES, HOWEVER, THE VISIT HAS SOME SIGNIFICANCE. END SUMMARY

1. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE COMMUNIQUE INDICATES GISCARD AND THE EMIR "EXPRESSED THEIR COMMON CONVICTION THAT NEW EFFORTS OUGHT TO BE MADE IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THE SEARCH FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE WHICH SHOULD, IN
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PARTICULAR, TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN

PEOPLE TO A HOMELAND (PATRIE)."

2. CONCERNING THE GULF, THE COMMUNIQUE STATES "THE TWO PARTIES EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE WHICH TEND TO REINFORCE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THAT REGION. THEY AGREED ON THE NECESSITY FOR KEEPING THAT REGION FREE FROM INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE ZONE IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF ITS STATES, WITHOUT ANY FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. THE TWO PARTIES REAFFIRMED THEIR DESIRE (SOUCI) TO MAKE THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONES OF PEACE."

3. THE COMMUNIQUE MAKES A NOD IN THE DIRECTION OF THE UTILITY OF THE PARIS PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND EXPRESSES THE CONVICTION THAT ONCE CONDITIONS ARE SUITABLE, THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL BEGIN AGAIN. THE TWO PARTIES ARE "DISPOSED TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF UNDERTAKING COMMON PROJECTS IN CERTAIN OF THESE (LEAST DEVELOPED) COUNTRIES."

4. ON THE BILATERAL PLANE, THE TWO PARTIES "DECIDED IT WAS DESIRABLE TO EXPEDITE THE STUDY, THEN THE CARRYING OUT, OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN THE FIELDS OF WATER DESALINATION, PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MORE GENERALLY, LARGE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. MOREOVER, AN AGREEMENT ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES WAS CONCLUDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING KUWAITI INVESTMENTS IN FRENCH MONETARY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED TO COOPERATE ON INVESTMENTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES."

5. WE DISCUSSED THE VISIT WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT PAOLI AND QUAI PERSIAN GULF DESK OFFICER BELLIVIER ON MAY 29. THEY INDICATED POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN SHORT AND WITHOUT REAL SIGNIFICANCE. ACCORDING TO PAOLI, THE PARAGRAPH OF THE COMMUNIQUE ON THE GULF REGION WAS INCLUDED AT KUWAITI REQUEST AND REFLECTS PRIMARILY KUWAIT'S CONCERN THAT ITS STRONGER

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NEIGHBORS, IRAN, IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA, PLAN TO TAKE CONCERTED ACTION AT ITS EXPENSE. THE FRENCH, HE SAID, CONSIDER THE LANGUAGE BOILER-PLATE. (PAOLI DIGRESSED TO DESCRIBE IRAN'S DESIRE TO DELIMIT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN ITS FAVOR, IRAQ'S CLAIMS TO PART OF BOUBIAN AND ANOTHER CURRENTLY KUWAITI ISLAND, AND SAUDI ARABIA'S WISH TO MAKE PERMANENT THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEMARCATION IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE IN ORDER TO RAISE ABOVE FIFTY

PERCENT ITS REVENUE FROM ZONE OIL. PAOLI SAID THAT
AFTER FURTHER QUIET NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES, IRAN,
IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE LIKELY TO IMPOSE A NEW ORDER
ON THE GULF AREA INVOLVING, INTER ALIA, TERRITORIAL
LOSSES FOR KUWAIT AND THE PROHIBITION OF ALL FOREIGN
BASES IN THE REGION.)

6. DISCUSSIONS ON COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL AND MILITARY
MATTERS WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE APPROPRIATE MINISTERS,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 13926

ACCORDING TO THE QUAI. THE KUWAITIS FOUND FRENCH
INVESTMENT PROCEDURES AND TAX PROVISIONS DIFFICULT
COMPARED TO ANGLO-SAXON PRACTICE, AND THE QUAI DOES NOT
BELIEVE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT WILL RESULT FROM THE

AGREEMENT ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES, ALTHOUGH FRANCE HOPES TO INTRODUCE MORE FLEXIBILITY INTO ITS FOREIGN INVESTMENT REGULATIONS. THE FRENCH UNCOVERED LITTLE KUWAITI INTEREST IN TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT, WHICH THEY ESPOUSED, AND BELIEVE FRANCE FACES TOUGH COMPETITION FOR SELLING IN THE KUWAITI MARKET DESPITE EXPRESSED KUWAITI INTEREST IN BUYING FRENCH.

7. AS USUAL, THE QUAI OFFICIALS CLAIMED TO KNOW LITTLE ABOUT MILITARY SALES. THEY INDICATED THAT NO NEW CONTRACTS HAD YET BEEN SIGNED BUT MIGHT BE BEFORE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTURE OF THE MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE EMIR'S ENTOURAGE. THE KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD THE PRESS THAT FURTHER ARMS PURCHASES WOULD BE MADE AND THE PRESS HAS HIGHLIGHTED KUWAITI INTEREST IN MISSILES -- GROUND-TO-AIR, AIR-TO-AIR AND SHIP-TO-SHIP. THE MEDIA ALSO PLAYED UP THE EMIR'S GIFT OF FIVE MILLION FRANCS TO THE PRESTIGIOUS BUT FINANCIALLY AILING PASTEUR INSTITUTE. THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS OR OFFICIAL COMMENT ON OIL DISCUSSIONS.

8. COMMENT: KUWAIT'S EMIR IS THE FIRST OF A STRING OF VISITORS FROM THE GULF STATES WHOM THE FRENCH PLAN TO RECEIVE IN PARIS, THE NEXT BEING ABU DHABI'S RULER IN EARLY JULY. WHILE THE RESULTS OF EACH VISIT MAY NOT BE IMPRESSIVE, THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL-ORCHESTRATED FRENCH DRIVE FOR MARKETS, OIL SUPPLIES AND INFLUENCE IN THE REGION AND IN THE ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL.
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